Question on Notice
No. 495
Asked on 16 April 2008

MS MALE asked the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport (MS SPENCE)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the crime statistics released today will she advise of details for the Sunshine Coast region?

ANSWER:

For the 2006/2007 year the Sunshine Coast has a good story to tell in terms of crime statistics.

Taking into consideration population growth, last year the Sunshine Coast recorded:

- a decrease of 29 percent in rapes and attempted rapes
- other sexual offences decreased by 17 percent.
- The rate of overall robbery dropped by 15 percent.
- Assault incidents decreased by four percent.
- The overall rate of unlawful entry offences decreased by 23 percent.
- Unlawful entry of dwelling offences decreased by 20 percent,
- Unlawful entry of shops and other premises decreased by 45 and 18 percent respectively.
- The rate of other property damage offences decreased by seven percent.
- The rate of unlawful use of motor vehicle offences recorded a 32 percent decrease.
- The rate of other theft offences dropped by four percent.
- Drug offences decreased 10 percent when taking into account population growth

Detailed information can be found in the annual statistical review at www.police.qld.gov.au

The midyear snapshot for Queensland provided encouraging statistics where Queensland has recorded reductions in all three broad offence categories per 100,000 persons. Offences against the person are down 5% Offences against property are down 13%, and Other Offences are down 1%.

Detailed crime statistics for all police regions and districts for 2007/08 will be available in the annual statistical review which will be released in November this year.

Police on the Sunshine Coast are working very hard and are undertaking a number of proactive strategies to improve the safety on the Sunshine Coast.

Late last year Sunshine Coast police introduced the trial of Special Public Order Teams - SPOT Teams - to operate in a ‘flying’ capacity to address public order issues as they arise. 12 officers, drawn from existing strength, were deployed in the northern and southern ends of the District to supplement normal policing resources during peak periods on Friday and Saturday nights.

Sunshine Coast police have also been given approval to purchase a “brawler van” to be able to efficiently transport offenders to the watchhouse. The Sunshine Coast Police district

was one of the first areas adopting the Priority Policing Policy, prior to its formal inception in September last year. This has allowed police to make the most effective use of their available resources. For example the traffic squad attends complaints if they are the nearest car.

Senior Police have conducted a full roster review of the Sunshine Coast to cater for busier periods on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Sunshine Coast Police have staged a number of public order operations targeting entertainment precincts in Noosa, Mooloolaba and Caloundra. Drug detection dogs and officers from the Public Safety Response Team have supported these operations, with a similar large scale operations planned for the near future.

Operation Golf Nitrous was conducted on the Sunshine Coast. This was a high visibility operation targeting drug, property, traffic and public order offences

This resulted in:

- 139 people charged with 282 offences
- 30 search warrants executed
- More than $24,000 in drugs seized
- More than $60,000 in property seized including 47 firearms

In September 2007 a dedicated Liquor Enforcement and Proactive Strategies Team was established to co-ordinate liquor enforcement throughout the Sunshine Coast. These officers work closely with Liquor Licensing investigators and have now adopted a collaborative approach to liquor enforcement.

Since its establishment the Team has conducted compliance checks of 96 premises and has taken enforcement action against 6 licensees/nominees for breaches of the Liquor Regulations.

The Team has also been tasked to overview all applications for new liquor licenses or extended trading hours.

Police have been instrumental in progressing formal liquor accords on the Sunshine with the Mooloolaba Accord up and running, and Caloundra and Noosa to come on line in the next couple of months.